

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE HARRISON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE**

These procedures are designed to ensure an orderly conduct of business and to allow the tape recording of the proceedings to record all comments made with accuracy.

Township Committee welcomes public comment on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the resident of the municipality. There will be two (2) portions, up to thirty (30) minutes in duration or as determined by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor, set aside for such comment at every monthly work session meeting and regular monthly business meeting of the Committee. There will be no other public comment accepted unless directed by the Mayor or Deputy Mayor or by an approved motion of the Committee, such as a public hearing.

Comments relating to specific items that are scheduled for a public hearing can only be made at the time of the public hearing on the issue. In taking action on these items, the Township Committee will consider the comments presented at public hearing and any member of the committee can request the Mayor or Deputy Mayor designee for permission to question the address Township Committee.

Each person who wishes to speak shall raise his or her hand to be recognized before speaking. When recognized, the speaker must state their name, address and purpose of their comments. A second opportunity for the same individual to speak will only be allowed after all others have had their opportunity.

Individuals' comments will be limited to three (3) minutes or at the discretion of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor, a maximum of five (5) minutes to allow as many residents to speak as possible. Comments must be directed only to the governing body. Other members of the Committee, municipal employees or Township professionals will respond only when requested by the mayor or his/her designee.

No intra-audience dialogue is permitted during the open session of any meeting. Such behavior is disruptive and will not be permitted.

Speakers on both sides shall treat each other with courtesy and respect in both action and utterance. No personal attacks or "poisonous" rhetoric will be permitted. The Mayor or Deputy Mayor will give one warning of improper behavior or rhetoric to a speaker. On the next offense the speaker will be asked to relinquish the floor to another speaker.

Closed sessions of the Township Committee will normally be held at the end of the normal business part of any meeting. Exceptions to this may be made due to professional commitments or anticipated outcomes deemed of significant public interest.

**Adopted January 6, 2014**